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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/700,256	11/03/2003	Drew Gant	60,210-190	3673
27305 7590 08/09/2007 HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C. THE PINEHURST OFFICE CENTER, SUITE #101 39400 WOODWARD AVENUE BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48304-5151			EXAMINER YABUT, DIANE D	
			ART UNIT 3734	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 08/09/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/700,256

Applicant(s)

GANT, DREW

Examiner

Diane Yabut

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 July 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 28 and 29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 28-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 16 July 2007 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Trott** (U.S. Patent No. **5,729,904**) in view of **Lim** (U.S. Patent No. **5,658,304**).

Claim 28: Trott discloses a housing **12** having a body and a head **28** that extends forward from said body, said head having a face and a through bore, a driver **29** having a driven portion **20** disposed in said housing and configured to be attached to a drive unit and a locking portion disposed over said face of said head, said locking portion having a through opening aligned with said through bore, and at least one engaging

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member **32**, a pin **40** that extends through said bore and said through opening, said pin having a head portion disposed over said locking portion with said head portion having an opening (next to element **44**) aligned over and positioned to receive at least one engaging member, said pin being movably mounted to said housing so as to be able to move longitudinally in said through bore and said through opening, a cap **43** mounted to said pin so as to be spaced above said head portion of said pin to define a slot between said head portion and said cap for receiving a surgical saw blade, and a biasing member **26** acting between said head of said housing and said pin for urging said head portion of said pin and said cap towards said at least one engaging member (Figures 1 and 6, col. 5, lines 1-63).

Trott discloses the claimed device except for the head portion defining an opening therethrough that is aligned over and positioned to receive said at least one engaging member.

Lim teaches a surgical saw blade coupler with a head portion **78** defining an opening **84** therethrough that is aligned over and positioned to receive said at least one engaging member **60** (Figures 1 and 5). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to provide the head portion with an opening, since this mating configuration produces a wrenchless and adapterless system without the necessity for auxiliary tools for securing a surgical blade to a powered handpiece, and decreases blade vibration induced by lateral loading on the blade (Lim, col. 3, lines 4-20).

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3. Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Trott** (U.S. Patent No. **5,729,904**) and **Lim** (U.S. Patent No. **5,658,304**) in view of **Evans** (U.S. Patent No. **5,263,972**).

Claim 29: Trott and Lim disclose the claimed device, including said cap having a bottom face directed towards said pin (see Figure 1), except for at least one bore that opens inwardly from said bottom face, said at least one bore being aligned with said at least one engaging member and said opening in said head portion of said pin and dimensioned to receive said at least one engaging member, and said driver, said pin and said cap are collectively dimensioned so that when said biasing member urges said head portion of said pin and said cap towards said at least one engaging member, said at least one engaging member extends through said opening and said slot into said bore defined in said cap that has a bottom face directed towards a head portion of a pin.

Evans teaches a surgical handpiece chuck and blade with at least one bore **74** that opens inwardly from said bottom face of a cap **50** that has a bottom face directed towards a head portion **109** of a pin, said at least one bore being aligned with said at least one engaging member and said opening in said head portion of said pin and dimensioned to receive said at least one engaging member, and said driver, said pin and said cap are collectively dimensioned so that when said biasing member urges said head portion of said pin and said cap towards said at least one engaging member, said at least one engaging member extends through said opening and said blade slot into said bore defined in said cap (Figure 6). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to provide a bore that opens inwardly from a

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bottom face of a cap, as taught by Evans, to Trott and Lim since it was known in the art that chucks often top projecting elements and spindles or rotating rods and pins in order to better engage the blade member and maintain a secure connecting mechanism.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 28-29 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Diane Yabut whose telephone number is (571) 272-6831. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 9AM-4PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Hayes can be reached on (571) 272-4959. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

DY


(JACKIE) TAN-UYEN HO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
8/6/07